

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 are currently pending in this application. All claims have been rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 26 have been amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1, 4-10, 13-18 and 21-28 would be pending.

II. Objection to the Claims:

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23 and 26 are objected to because of minor informalities. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, the Applicants have amended the claims to address these minor informalities. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 13, 15-18, 21 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuga (US 5,832,338) and further in view of Yamamoto (US 6,067,645). Claims 6, 14, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Kuga and Yamamoto in further view of Masuda (US 4,569,585).

Independent claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 are generally directed to arrangements involving an image reading apparatus with an image sensing unit for reading an image and an interface connected to the external apparatus through an interface cable and which transfers an image signal read by the image sensing unit to an external apparatus. The image reading

apparatus operates with power supplied from an external power supply, and the image reading apparatus is set to the sleep state if unplugging of the interface cable of the interface is detected. The interface cable and the cable for supplying power from the external power supply are physically different cables, and that the abnormality (as previously recited) is unplugging of the interface cable.

As reflected in the claims, when the interface cable is unplugged and the external power supply normally supplies power to the image reading apparatus, the controller sets the image reading apparatus in a sleep state for example to save energy supplied from the external power supply.

Kuga shows a copying machine 1 with a scanner 2 in which the machine may be connected to a personal computer via an external interface 124. Kuga also discusses a preheating mode, as follows:

When depressed, the preheating key 96 turns off all display lamps and set the copying machine 1 in preheating (power-saving) mode. To make copies of a document, the operator pushes the preheating key 96, thereby releasing the machine 1 from the preheating mode.

(Col. 11, lines 25-29)

The above cited portion simply discusses a preheating operation, which turns off all display lamps, when the preheating key 96 is turned on. The preheating key can be subsequently pressed to release the copy machine from the preheating mode to allow copies of a document to be produced.

The Examiner acknowledges that Kuga does not disclose or suggest an unplugging of the interface cable, as claimed. It necessary follows that Kuga is also silent as to

the image reading apparatus being set to the sleep state if unplugging of the interface cable of the interface is detected. The Examiner alleges that these deficiencies in the Kuga teachings are remedied by Yamamoto.

The secondary reference Yamamoto, however, is related to a completely different system configuration than that relied upon by the Examiner in Kuga. Yamamoto shows a controller which is connected to a display over an interface. Yamamoto discusses the problem when a sleep mode may be undesirably entered into by the display device when the cable is disconnected because the display device in general enters into a sleep mode when no new data is received from the controller. (Yamamoto, col. 13, lines 46-57). This problem can be resolved because the disconnection can be detected. (Yamamoto, col. 13, lines 58-64).

Since Yamamoto treats as undesirable the activation of the sleep mode resulting from disconnection of the cable, it teaches away from any such a configuration. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the cited references in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Further, as noted above, Kuga and Yamamoto relate to different types of systems. Kuga shows a copy machine which may be connected to a personal computer, and Yamamoto shows a display which is to be connected to a controller. It is unclear why one of ordinary skill in the art would have the copy machine enter a "sleep mode" or a preheating mode when the machine is disconnected from the personal computer.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 10, 18 and 26 and their dependent claims are not rendered obvious by the combination of the cited references.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4747.

Respectfully submitted,
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